MINUTES OF A COMMITTEE MEETING HELD
IN NEW YORK CITY ON JAN. 18,
1918,
ON THE FINAL DESIGN FOR THE TREASURY
ANNEX AND OTHER MATTERS.

-----oOo-----

A committee meeting of the members of the Commission to consider the design for the Treasury Annex building and to meet representatives of the Ericsson Monument Commission for a discussion of a site for that memorial was held at 2 o'clock in the afternoon of January 18, 1918, at the Century Club, New York City. Mr. Platt, Mr. Kendall, and Mr. Pope were present as a committee on the Treasury Annex matter, and with Mr. Adams and Mr. Weir acted with reference to the Ericsson site, and other matters considered. Mr. Moore, the Chairman, was present ex officio, and Colonel Ridley, the Secretary, accompanied by Mr. Cammerer, his assistant, was also present with maps and other data for the assistance of the members.

1. THE TREASURY ANNEX. For the information of the members, a letter from Assistant Secretary Moyle of the Treasury was read, forwarding plans and elevations of the proposed new Treasury Annex building as finally presented by the architect, Mr. Cass Gilbert, and stating that before final action is taken the Treasury Department would like the comment and advice of the Commission of Fine Arts regarding the design. Mr. Gilbert was present, and explained the details of the design, with other pertinent facts, for the benefit of the members. While the design showed his scheme for the proposed future extension of the building along the entire west frontage of the square, the Commission's official action related only to the unit to be

constructed on the area immediately south of the Belasco Theater. The approval of the plans and design was recommended to the Secretary of the Treasury.

2. MEADE MEMORIAL. Mr. Frank Miles Day, architectural advisor of the Meade Memorial Commission of the State of Pennsylvania, and Mr. Grant Simon of the firm of Simon & Bassett, architects of Philadelphia, appeared by request for a conference on the Meade memorial design. Mr. Platt, speaking for the three architect members, stated that Mr. Kendall, Mr. Pope, and he had given much careful thought to the problem of the correction of details pointed out at the last meeting in Washington as desirable in the model then submitted, and had made a number of sketches and studies in their endeavors to solve the problem; but that they had come to the conclusion as the result of their investigations and personal efforts, separately and from different angles, that it would not be possible to work out a satisfactory scheme along the lines of the design last considered,- that despite the preliminary approval given this model, they were now convinced that further progress along these lines would lead to nothing satisfactory since the relationship of the two masses was fundamentally wrong,- and that they advised making a fresh start.

A prolonged discussion ensued. Mr. Day reiterated that the State of Pennsylvania would continue to insist upon a portrait statue of General Meade as a part of the memorial; furthermore, he added, he was embarrassed as to how to convey the news to the Pennsylvania Commission since they felt that they had the Commission of Fine Arts' approval. He was informed that the Commission was perhaps responsible to that extent since it was thought that the design was getting along to an acceptable final stage; but that it was not until thorough study

had been given to the details of the last model that the conclusion became inevitable that further work along these lines would be fruitless. After some more discussion the question of a design was left in that state, with the hope that after further conferences and consideration an idea would perhaps suggest itself.

3. ARLINGTON FARMS: By appointment, Professor L. C. Corbett of the Department of Agriculture, in charge of the Arlington Farms project, conferred regarding a general plan for the farm and the individual buildings that are to be erected there. Professor Corbett exhibited a general plan prepared for him, which he explained at some length. When he was asked for studies showing elevations of the buildings with relation to each other and showing the proposed cornice line of the scheme, he said that they had not yet been prepared, although he had them in mind; his intention is to take a panoramic view from the top of one of the east Arlington gates and then arrange the proposed scheme in elevation on that photograph. He added that while none of the proposed buildings has yet been built, Mr. Page of the Bureau of Public Roads was anxious to have the one for which the design was before the Commission on December 21st, last, erected as soon as possible. Altogether there are 17 old buildings in the farms, and 26 new ones are proposed. He asked whether in the opinion of the members any such arrangement as shown was the right line to proceed on. since they were face to face with the urgency of immediate construction of some of the buildings. He was advised that it was difficult to find out without considerable study in mass just what kind of a building is wanted or needed there. Brick buildings were suggested but he said that, although it would probably cost more, concrete was favored as they were better prepared to build in that material. Mr. Platt advised that the

members could not act with the information that was before them,- that the general plan appeared good, but it could not be passed on without having the drawings of the buildings to go along with it. It was impressed upon Professor Corbett that the Commission had asked for a plan showing the relation of the buildings to each other, but none had been seen. Professor Corbett replied that elevations are not yet completed but will be ready soon.

4. SITE FOR ERICSSON MEMORIAL: By appointment, Mr. Eckberg, Mr. J.Bergquist, and Mr. Aspegren, representatives of the Ericsson memorial lay commission, appeared for further conference regarding a site for the proposed Ericsson memorial. At the last meeting in Washington this committee has been informed that a site they preferred across Seventeenth Street from the Pan-American building and north of B Street would not be suitable for any monument. A second site favored by them in the circle south of the Lincoln Memorial had also been eliminated because Mr. Bacon, architect of the Lincoln Memorial, had advised against the introduction of monuments in the immediate vicinity of the Lincoln Memorial since they would "give an air of triviality to the surroundings of the Lincoln Memorial that would lessen its majesty." The Commission of Fine Arts itself had urged consideration of the triangular reservation along B Street immediately to the rear of the Pan-American building as a suitable site, but the lay committee were not satisfied with that. In other words, none of the three sites more recently considered was acceptable to one or the other body. After a friendly discussion of the problem, the lay committee said that they would prefer to wait until the Commission has had an opportunity again to survey the field and find a site which might be recommended to them. This was satisfactory.

5. MERIDIAN HILL PARK: Colonel Ridley submitted a study showing a suggestion

for changes in the scheme for the treatment of the central portion of the upper part of Meridian Hill Park, which proposed alterations in the long simple lines of the central panel by inserting a water basin at the end nearest the bandstand and also in detail of the flanking walks. After some discussion he was advised that the old scheme should be adhered to, and no changes made.

6. PLAN FOR SOUTHERN PART OF ARLINGTON CEMETERY: Mr. Moore read a letter from the Secretary of War, transmitting for the consideration of the Commission a preliminary sketch plan of the new undeveloped part of Arlington Cemetery forming its southernmost end, with accompanying comments by the Depot Quartermaster and the Quartermaster General of the Army. The plan was considered workable, criticisms being that the regular planting of trees shown in the form of an avenue should be possibly accented by a double line leading from the proposed Dewey monument to the rond point, but that the double line of trees should be discontinued on the road where it remains an irregular shape. The planting of that should be developed on the ground by having massing of trees and planting properly distributed with reference to the curves.

After some further discussion the committees adjourned.

Approved: Charles Moore
Chairman.

Colonel, U. S. Army,
Secretary and Executive Officer.